GUINEA-BISSAU

COUNTRY PROFILE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21:
REVIEW OF PROGRESS MADE SINCE THE
UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, 1992**

**Information Provided by the Government of Guinea-Bissau to the
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United Nations Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development
Division for Sustainable Development
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GUINEA-BISSAU

This country profile has been provided by:

Name of Ministry/Office:

Date:

Submitted by:

Mailing address:

Telephone:

Telefax:

E-mail:

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All statistics are rendered as provided by the respective Governments.

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ACRONYMS

APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
CFC	chlorofluorocarbon
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel
EEZ	exclusive economic zone
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ELCI	Environmental Liaison Centre International
EMINWA	environmentally sound management of inland water
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GEMS/WATER	Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution
GIPME	Global Investigation of Pollution in Marine Environment (UNESCO)
GIS	Geographical Information System
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
GSP	generalized system of preferences
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAP-WASAD	International Action Programme on Water and Sustainable Agricultural Development
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IBSRAM	International Board of Soil Resources and Management
ICCA	International Council of Chemical Associations
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICPIC	International Cleaner Production Information Clearing House
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
IEEA	Integrated environmental and economic accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (ICSU)
IGBP/START	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme/Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INFOTERRA	International Environment Information system (UNEP)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	integrated pest management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ITC	International Tin Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization

ACRONYMS (Cont'd)

IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PGRFA	plant genetic resources for agriculture
PIC	prior informed consent procedure
SADCC	South African Development Co-ordination Conference
SARD	sustainable agriculture and rural development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNU	United Nations University
WCP	World Climate Programme (WMO/UNEP/ICSU/UNESCO)
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (also called World Wildlife Fund)
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

OVERVIEW

(You may wish to use pages v and vi to briefly present your national position five years after UNCED)

Political/Geostrategic Position

Located in the Sub-Sahel region, Guinea-Bissau became independent after eleven years of open fighting, which partially destroyed its agrarian and productive structures due mainly to the defection of the rural population.
Its natural resources have been increasingly subject to erosion and exhaustion due to continued demographic pressures.

The country's geostrategic position, threatened by the advance of the Sahel desert, is further exacerbated by social factors, such as a high poverty rate and a per capita income of no more 200 US$. This places the country in a position of total dependence on its limited natural resources and increasingly low levels of official development assistance.
The democratization of civil society, adherence to international organizations, and the opening up of borders to the free movement of goods, services, and individuals create new challenges and expectations, but also threatens to increase the pressure on halieutic resources, particularly in the coastal area and forests, among others.

The country's current situation

* Dependence on the forest as the main source of energy;
* Increasing demand for new land area for cultivation;
* Increasing soil erosion;
* Seasonal overgrazing;
* Low stocks of foreign currency;
* Deforestation due to the country's dependence on coal production and other forest goods for export;
* Rural to urban migration, particularly to the capital, increasing the pressure on existing urban infrastructure and exacerbating such problems as juvenile delinquency, the lack of job opportunities, security, among others.
* Inflow of refugees and migrants from neighbouring countries escaping political and social instability, among others.

Under these circumstances, it is difficult to anticipate an improvement in the quality of life and the chances to live in harmony with the environment and equitably share its resources.

Implementation of Agenda 21 Goals and Objectives

Environmental issues were of concern to the government even prior to the Rio Conference. In 1992, the government established the National Council for the Environment (CNA) to coordinate the work undertaken by all ministries responsible for implementing environmental policies. The establishment of this National Council for the Environment was extremely important given the fact that steps had been taken in recent years to establish conservation units, which would have national representation in the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts (MTAA), to facilitate the coordination of the work carried out by different departments in the field of environment.

In June this year, 1997, a new government was formed which resulted in the consolidation of various ministries. Since then, the coordination of environmental and sustainable development activities, including research, planning and management of natural resources, has been integrated into the Ministry of Rural Development, Natural Resources and the Environment (MDRRNA), which will facilitate coordination and take into account the participation of civil society, including NGOs.

Despite existing constraints, positive steps have been taken in the integration of environmental policy into the country's political and legal framework. It is necessary to safeguard the sectorial development plans, which will facilitate the elaboration of a strategy for the management and rational utilization of the country's natural resources, and improve the standards of living of the population. The following is a list of the goals achieved in the integration of environmental policy into the political and legal framework:
- In collaboration with the IUCN, the MDRA elaborated and proposed to government an environmental strategy for coastal management.
- The National Council for the Environment, in collaboration with the UNDP/UNSO, elaborated a draft National Plan for the Management of Natural Resources.
- The Ministry of Rural Development, Natural Resources and the Environment, in collaboration with the UNDP, elaborated a Water and Sanitation Master Plan.
- The Ministry of Public Works, with Portuguese cooperation assistance, elaborated a General Urbanization Plan for the capital, Bissau.

OVERVIEW (Cont'd)

- The Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture, with support from the World Bank, UNDP, and FAO, elaborated a Plan of Action for the Tropical Forest.
- The IUCN, in coordination with the General Directorate for the Environment (DGA), proposed to government the creation of the Mongais do Cacheu Natural Park, and the National Park of the Orango Islands.
- The Bolama-Bijagos Biosphere Reserve, designated by UNESCO as Global Patrimony, was created in 1996.
- The government approved a legal framework for Protected Areas.
- The Basic Law on the Environment, and a Project for the Protection of Fragile Ecosystems (Institutionalization of the Lagoa de Cofadas Natural Park) have been elaborated and are waiting for government approval.
- A Political Strategy is being developed, after which a National Environmental Plan will be drawn up. Support for the NEP is expected from UNDP, the Netherlands and Portuguese Cooperation.

The implementation of policies, plans and strategies is made increasingly difficult due to socio-economic and financial constraints, and to the lack of technology. We therefore call on the international community and developed countries to meet their commitments so we can face the environmental and development challenges and improve the living standards of the population. To achieve this goal within the principles of Agenda 21, the following needs to be taken into account:

- The multilateral trade system needs to be more open, equitable and predictable, compatible with the principles of sustainable development, and conducive to an optimal distribution of the global production, taking into consideration each country's comparative advantage.
- The capacity of developing countries to mobilize, through international trade, the resources needed to finance sustainable development needs to be strengthen by removing tariff barriers and other protectionist measures, improving market access and the terms of trade for the LDCs, among others.
- Need to increase technical cooperation, including technology transfer, know-how, and financial resources for sustainable development, taking into account the specific conditions of each country.

Guinea-Bissau reaffirms its political commitment to integrate environmental policies into sustainable development and supports the CSD's programme of work for 1998-2000.

FACT SHEET

NAME OF COUNTRY: GUINEA-BISSAU

1. Name of Key National Sustainable Development Coordination Mechanism(s)/Council(s).

Contact point (Name, Title, Office):

Telephone:
Fax:
e-mail:

Mailing address:

2. Membership/Composition/Chairperson:

2a. List of ministries and agencies involved:

2b. Names of para-statal bodies and institutions involved, as well as participating of academic and private sector bodies:

2c. Names of non-governmental organizations involved:

3. Mandate role of above mechanism/council:

4. If available, attach a diagram (organization chart) showing national coordination structure and linkages between ministries:

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 2: **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES (with special emphasis on TRADE)**

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The Republic of Guinea-Bissau is a member of the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), among others. It has established bilateral and multilateral relations with various countries in such areas as trade, culture and education, and technology transfer, among others. Cooperation with Portugal has also increased in recent years.

Both prior to and following the Rio Conference, the government of Guinea-Bissau signed various cooperation agreements with international organizations working in the area of environment and sustainable development, including the IUCN, UNESCO, FAO, the Inter State Committee for Combating Desertification in the Sahel (CILSS), among others.

With a per capita income of 202 US$ (September 1997), a high poverty rate, and a low GNP (240 US$), Guinea-Bissau is among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and is therefore extremely dependent on development assistance, both from international financial agencies and the international community. Without this assistance, the country would not be able to implement most of its development projects. Many important projects have been discontinued due to the lack of financial and other resources needed for their implementation.

A programme for economic stabilization based on a freer economy, including increased credit for trade, particularly exports, among others, was drawn up and implemented in 1983, in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Also under the guidance of the IMF and the World Bank, a structural adjustment programme was carried out in 1987.

In the area of fisheries, the country established new cooperation links aimed at strengthening technical and financial cooperation for capacity building, and promote the fisheries industry and the sustainable use of its marine resources, in an effort to achieve food security.

In the context of cooperation with the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), Guinea-Bissau signed agreements with Portugal and Cape Verde in the areas of research, training, and institutional strengthening.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** See Status Report

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** See Status Report

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS					

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: • Focus of national strategy Highlight activities aimed at the poor and linkages to the environment In the context of international community assistance to alleviate poverty, particularly assistance from developed countries, the government of Guinea-Bissau received different types of assistance which included, among others, food donations from the World Food Programme. The major factors which in our country contribute to the high poverty rate include a growing population, increasing desertification from the advance of the Sahel into parts of the country, and years of low agricultural productivity. Endemic poverty has no doubt had a negative impact on the conservation and management of the country's natural resources, a situation which can only be improved with a stronger commitment on the part of the international community to increase official development assistance (ODA) and forgive our debt.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	1992	Latest 199_
Unemployment (%)				
Population living in absolute poverty				
Public spending on social sector %				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

- **National policy objectives/focus**
- **National targets**

The government's policy has been to promote greater efficiency in the use of the country's natural resources, particularly in the energy sector. It has also attempted to reduce waste and minimize the over utilization of limited resources in the production process.

The government of Guinea-Bissau intends to promote research projects and sensibilization campaigns, in collaboration with international organizations, aimed at reversing unsustainable consumption patterns, particularly to reduce the pressure on limited forest resources on which more than 90% of the population depend for fuelwood.

Several research projects on consumption and production patterns have been carried out in the country's major cities and regions to promote alternative sources of energy and preserve forest resources. These include the following:
- A project carried out by the Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture, in collaboration with FAO, to encourage the reuse/recycling of waste wood products.
- An educational and sensibilization campaign is also in progress to raise awareness for the need to make production more efficient and consumption more sustainable.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	1992	1996	
GDP per capita (current US$)				202	
Real GDP growth (%)					
Annual energy consumption per capita (Kg. of oil equivalent per capita)					
Motor vehicles in use per 1000 inhabitants					
Other data					

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Guinea-Bissau, a country with 36,125 Km^2, has a population of about one million which is divided into approximately twenty ethnic groups. The annual population growth rate is 1.9% and life expectancy forty-seven years, according to the last population census, carried out in 1991.

The government of Guinea-Bissau participated in both the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, and in the United Nations Social Summit, held in Copenhagen in 1995. Following the United Nations Conference on Population and Development, a family planning unit was created under the authority of the Ministry of Public Health and the Association of the Well Being of the Family.

The latest census, carried out in 1991, shows that the population is increasing though not at an alarming rate. Although we have to take into account the movement and concentration of the population in urban centres and the coastal area, efforts should be made to improve living conditions in rural areas to encourage people to remain. Migration movements are also a significant phenomena.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1990	1993	Latest 199_	
Population (Thousands) mid-year estimates				
Annual rate of increase (1990-1993)				
Surface area (Km^2)				
Population density (people/Km^2)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The governments's global health strategy to provide health care access for all until the year 2000 aims to meet the basic health care needs of the rural and urban populations. It is in this context that the government of Guinea-Bissau, through the Ministry of Public Health, is carrying out activities, such as immunization campaigns, among others, to improve public health.

The National Health Plan was elaborated in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts (MTAA), the National Council for the Environment (CNA), and other institutions, with the support of the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, and UNICEF. It is anticipated that the implementation of this plan will improve the quality of public health by, among others, promoting health education, providing minimum sanitation conditions, increase the number of latrines, improve the quality of drinking water, and increase the number of sanitation centres in the capital.

The Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts (MTAA) is also elaborating a Plan for Urban Solid Wastes. In 1995, the MTAA promoted a campaign to reduce waste in the capital, in collaboration with capital's Municipal Council and other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

With the assistance of United Nations agencies in the elaboration of health plans, and with support from international and national NGOs, the Ministry of Public Health is carrying out projects on family health in several neighbourhoods of Bissau. In addition, there is a project to combat endemic and epidemic diseases, including malaria and Cholera.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** See Status Report

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** See Status Report

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199_	
Life expectancy at birth Male Female				
Infant mortality (per 1000 live births)				
Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live births)				
Access to safe drinking water (% of population)				
Access to sanitation services (% of population)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The democratization of the country's political system, with the introduction of multi-party elections, and the coming municipal election campaign, will create favourable conditions for a new urban management approach. To date there was only one Municipal Council whose president was appointed and not elected.

There are four cities in the country, Bissau, Bafatá, Gabú and Bolama, which need additional raw materials, energy, and basic infrastructure to meet the increasing needs of their populations. Steps have already been taken to improve the quality of human settlements, particularly in Bissau. These include the elaboration of an Urbanization Plan undertaken in collaboration with the Portuguese government, notwithstanding the lack of financial resources for its implementation. In addition, a project to upgrade the capital's urban infrastructure, including the city's transportation system, the drainage system for pluvial waters, construction of additional public drinking fountains, among others, has also been implemented with cooperation assistance from the Dutch government. A private company and NGOs have also been involved in the collection of garbage in the capital

The World Bank is presently co-financing a project aimed at upgrading the capital's main roads and drainage system for pluvial waters. This project is being implemented by AGEOPPE in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works. In addition, a National Land Management Plan is being elaborated by the Ministry of Social Equipment in collaboration with other ministries.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** See Status Report

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** See Status Report

4. **Finance:** See Status Report

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** See Status Report

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
	1990	1995	
Urban population in % of total population			
Annual rate of growth of urban population (%)			
Largest city population (in % of total population)			
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

(See pages vii and viii at the beginning of the profile)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: Following the Earth Summit, the government of Guinea-Bissau established the National Council for the Environment in an effort to facilitate the implementation of Agenda 21 goals and objectives.

Subsequently, in 1994, following the first democratically elected government, significant changes were made to introduce the environmental component into the government's institutional structure. A Secretary of State for Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts (SETAA) was established, which a year later evolved into the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts (MTAA), to allow for a more systematic consideration of environmental issues in the decision making process regarding economic, social, and fiscal policies, energy, transportation, agriculture, trade, land planning, among others.

In the process of carrying out its mandate, the MTAA promoted activities conducive to the elaboration of a National Environmental Plan. These activities included hosting a National Conference on the Environment, the first of its kind, which counted on the participation of all segments of society, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, local authorities, religious leaders, among others.

Following this national forum on the environment, technicians from all ministries came together to formulate environmental and sustainable development programmes/projects for the country, taking into account the need for a more participatory approach in the decision making process. These projects were later presented at an international round-table, held in Bissau in May 1996, with the participation of major donors and those financing development projects, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNESCO, UNEP, FAO, WHO, the European Union, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), USAID, the Portuguese Environmental Promotion Institute (IPAMB), and the governments of Portugal and the Netherlands, among others. The joint-declaration adopted at this round-table, which will guide all planning activities, focused essentially on the following:

- Elaboration of a political strategy and National Plan for Environmental Management;
- Strengthening legal/institutional frameworks for capacity building and promoting education and training to improve the quality of human resources; and
- Assessment and inventory of current development programmes to identify complementary areas and additional financial and technological needs.

All cooperation partners who participated in the round-table reaffirmed their commitment to assist the government of Guinea-Bissau in achieving these development objectives.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure (please also refer to the fact sheet):** See Status Report

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No Information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** See Status Report

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The Montreal Protocol and its Amendments

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- The UNFCCC was ratified in October 1995.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

Guinea-Bissau has participated in other international fora on the protection of the atmosphere and subsequently signed the documents adopted in those meetings. The country is a signatory to the Conference of the Parties of the Climate Change Convention and participates in the Global Climate Observing System, which evaluates climate changes. Due to existing deficiencies in the Observing System, analysis of cause and effect relationships are often incomplete and preliminary. We therefore see the need to improve the descriptive models of complex interaction processes which occur in the climate system.

Regarding atmospheric pollution, the country is also committed to participate fully in global and regional programmes to evaluate changes in the composition of the atmosphere, particularly the emissions of highly polluting gasses, such as carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, among others. In this context, our primary concern is to have more reliable climate change forecasts for the near future in Guinea-Bissau. Without the means to make accurate climate change forecasts it is difficult to adopt strategies to adapt to such climatic changes. Atmospheric pollution levels in Guinea-Bissau are not very high, the main causes of pollution are forest fires and waste disposal sites.

We hope that the principle of common but differentiated responsibility will guide the international community in its efforts to protect the environment, in which climate and atmosphere play a vital role. In addition, we also expect that funds from the Global Environment Facility will be used to further the implementation of the Climate Change Convention.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
CO_2 emissions (eq. million tons)				
SO_x "				
NO_x "				
CH_4 "				
Consumption of ozone depleting substances (Tons)				
Expenditure on air pollution abatement in US$ equivalents (million)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The main forces responsible for increasing the pressure on land resources are economic activity and increasing population needs. The integrated planning and management of physical resources and the sustainable use of soils have received particular attention from the government in an effort to minimize conflicts and harmonize economic and social development and environmental protection.

In this context, the government, through its various ministries, is elaborating plans for the sustainable management of its natural resources and the environment, which include the following:

- The Law on Land (Government, National Assembly);
- Comprehensive Agrarian Policy (Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture - MDRA);
- National Environmental Plan (Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts - MTAA);
- National Land Management Plan (MOPCU, SEP, CMB);
- National Health and Environment Plan (Ministry of Public Health and Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts - MTAA);
- National Forest Management Plan.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** See Status Report

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: Please refer to the information provided in Chapter 12.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1985	1990	Latest 199-	
Forest Area (Km^2)				
Protected forest area				
Roundwood production (solid volume of roundwood without bark in mill m^3)				
Deforestation rate (Km^2/annum)				
Reforestation rate (Km^2/annum)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa

- The Convention was ratified in October 1995.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

Data from the latest inventory, carried out by Atlanta-Consult, shows that the country's forest cover amounts to approximately 2.1 million ha., or about 64% of the total land area, a 220,000 ha. reduction since 1978 when the forest cover amounted to 70% of total land area.

The country's forest resources are extremely important both for the government, as a major source of national income from export earnings, and for the population who depend on them for their livelihood. Although the country's natural resources are highly valued, they are constantly under pressure and subject to over-exploitation. Government efforts to prevent excessive logging, forest fires, and agricultural practices which cause soil erosion have not been very successful mainly due to the lack of financial resources and administrative means to address the problem.

Following a request made to the Swiss Government, a Project for Coastal Planning was established in Guinea-Bissau, after a protocol agreement was signed between the former Minister of Rural Development and Agriculture and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to assist the Government in the elaboration of a programme for the management and rational utilization of the coast's natural resources.

In 1990, following the first phase of the Coastal Planning Project, a proposal was made to establish a network of five protected areas and as a result a decree was submitted for government approval for the creation of the Cacheu and the Orango Natural Parks. A project was also elaborated for the creation of the Cufada Lakes Natural Park in collaboration with the Portuguese Government and the European Union.

Other important plans and legislation have been drawn up in the context of the programme to combat desertification, including the following:

- The Forest Master Plan,
- The Forest Law,
- The draft proposal of the law on fauna, and
- UNESCO's acknowledgment, in April of 1996, of the Bolama-Bijagos archipelago as a biosphere reserve.

At the sub-regional level, Guinea-Bissau collaborates with the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Combating Desertification in the Sahel (CILSS) in the formulation of plans and strategies to combat desertification in the region. A CILSS representative has been sent to the country to facilitate this collaboration.

The government also intends to promote activities, in collaboration with NGOs, aimed at combating desertification and drought, taking into account that the country is located in a sub-tropical zone and that the main priority is to implement preventive measures to avert further soil erosion and deterioration. NGOs have played an important role in this area by promoting education and awareness raising campaigns, particularly among the population in the most affected areas, the north and eastern parts of the country.

Through these activities, plans, and programmes the government aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote the rational management of forests, agriculture and cattle raising;
- Prevent/Control forest fires;
- Increase public participation, particularly of women.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** See status Report

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** See Status Report

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** See Status Report

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** See Status Report

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199_	
Land affected by desertification (Km^2)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: Not applicable.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Guinea-Bissau is a predominantly rural society, with 75% of the population depending on agriculture for its livelihood. The government has therefore invested considerably in the agricultural sector and promoted sustainable rural development, despite the fact that projects have been discontinued due to the lack of financial resources, both from domestic sources and from donor countries.

A project is now being implemented in the eastern part of the country to encourage rice production in fresh water fields all year round. Two other Rural Development Programmes (PDRI-Zone I and PIC) have been carried out to assist the rural population, by encouraging farmers to form producers associations, by providing improved seeds and introducing horticulture, and by raising awareness of the important role that both savings and credit play in development. Often, however, these programmes have to be discontinued or do not have the desired impact due mainly to the lack of funds, skilled human resources, infrastructure, among others.

It is anticipated that during the elaboration of a Comprehensive Agrarian Policy, the country's agricultural policy will be reviewed and the multifunctional aspect of agriculture taken into consideration in integrated sector planning, with particular focus on food security and sustainable development.

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1985	1990	Latest 199_
Agricultural land (Km^2)			
Agricultural land as % of total land area			
Agricultural land per capita			
	1989/90	**1992/93**	**Latest 199_**
Consumption of fertilizers per Km^2 of agricultural land as of 1990			
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

Convention on Biological Diversity

- The Convention was ratified in 1995.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- Guinea-Bissau adhered to the CITES Convention in 1990.

Additional comments relevant to this chapter

The country acceded to the RAMSAR Convention, in 1991, and to the Bonne Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, by signing one of the Convention's agreements on Migratory Aquatic Birds from Africa, Europe and Asia in June 1995.

A Memorandum of Intent was also signed in 1994 with the Trilateral Committee on the Wadden See, which includes Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands with a view to promoting research on migratory species as well as coastal management.

At the national level, the government has elaborated several draft-proposals, including a draft-law on the creation of the Cacheu and Orango Natural Parks and a draft-proposal to review existing legislation on fauna dating back to 1980. The government has also promoted activities to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the country's biological diversity, including, among others, restricting hunting both as a sport and a profession. In addition, the draft-law on Natural Parks calls for the rational, sustainable, and environmentally sound development of areas adjacent to Protected Areas to ensure the protection of endangered species.

An Addendum to the Forest Law should cover a Law on Protected Areas and a Law on Community Forests, anticipating new measures concerning forest logging and reforestation.

The government of Guinea-Bissau, through the Ministry of Fisheries, set up a database, in 1990, to monitor the use of the country's halieutic resources, including their capture, and other fishing related activities. In addition, research campaigns and experimental fishing have been conducted to improve management and commercialization. One of the aims is to gradually reduce foreign exploitation of national halieutic resources, without major consequences for the national budget, and to build capacity to strengthen the national fishing industry.

An Integrated Fisheries Plan was elaborated to promote the optimal and sustainable use of fisheries. This Plan includes the following:

- Fisheries control, management, and surveillance system;
- Human resources valuation;
- Economic framework for fisheries and the business environment;
- Management of the fishing fleet and fishing technology; and
- Support infrastructure improvement.

Cross-Sectoral Issues	
1. **Decision-Making Structure:** See Status Report	
2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** See Status Report	
3. **Major Groups:** No information	
4. **Finance:** No information	
5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** See Status Report	

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
	1992	Latest 199_	
Protected area as % of total land area			
	1990	Latest 199_	
Number of threatened species			
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 16: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: No information	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT:

The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea was ratified in 1986.

A number of issues regarding the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea are of particular importance to Guinea-Bissau. These include the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones; the protection of the marine environment; regional and international cooperation and coordination; the sustainable development of natural parks located in the coastal area and Islands.

The very nature of the country's coastline, flat and sedimentary, once led to the formation of a small group of Islands. The coast's productive habitats are extremely important for survival of the local population. About 65% of the total population of the country depends on coastal resources for their livelihood.

Nevertheless, despite efforts made at the sub-regional level to preserve coastal and marine resources, sustainable development plans and management approaches have not always succeeded due mostly to the lack of an appropriate surveillance system and to the lack of material and financial resources. As a result, the marine environment has deteriorated and its resources have been under great pressure from over exploitation.

Despite existing economic constraints and with the assistance of the international community, the government of Guinea-Bissau has continued promoting the integrated management and sustainable development of the coastal area and the Islands. The government, through the National Office for Coastal Planning, signed an agreement with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to carry out environmental conservation activities in a number of protected areas and to promote the sustainable use of the coast's natural resources. In addition, it established an Annual Fisheries Management Plan, in 1996, which includes measures on the management and control of foreign fishing in coastal waters and measures and incentives to promote the national fishing industry.

This Plan outlines fishing limits and permissible catch volumes by establishing a measure entitled Total Permissible Capture (TAC) and by allowing only authorized fishing boats to operate in the country's territorial waters. It also provides administrative and fiscal incentives to promote the national fishing industry, such as preferential tax concessions in granting fishing licences, allowing for the use of logistic support vessels, and elimination of all types of fiscal barriers previously imposed on national fishing companies.

Regarding the environmental conservation and development of the Islands, a conference was held in Bubaque, in 1996, organized by the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts, in collaboration with the Office for Coastal Planning and the National Research Institute (INEP), to address development and conservation issues.

The biosphere reserve principles, elaborated by UNESCO, identify development models which are compatible with the current conditions of the Bijagos Archipelago, for they conciliate development plans with conservation activities as it has also been pursued in protected areas.

Several development projects, partially financed by the IUCN, are being implemented in the Islands. These include a Geographic Information Systems Project which is being carried out by the Office for Coastal Planning, in collaboration with the National Research Institute, the IUCN, and GEOSYSTEMS (CNRS - Brest/France).

Other projected activities and programmes include:

- A sustainable development programme for the Bolama-Bijagos Region aiming to establish the Biosphere Reserve (INEP, IUCN, UNDP, UNESCO, Ministry of Fisheries, among others).
- A project for the creation of the Cacheu National Park (Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture and IUCN).
- A project for the creation of the Orango Islands National Park (Ministry of Rural Development and Agriculture in collaboration with the National Research Institute/INEP and the IUCN).

The Draft-proposals on the creation of the above National Parks have been submitted to the government for approval.

- A development programme to explore traditional fishing in the Buba River.
- NGO support and advisory services are available for sustainable development projects (Min. Coop. Intern/IUCN).

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** See Status Report

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** See Status Report

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** See Status Report

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Catches of marine species (metric tons)				
Population in coastal areas				
Population served by waste water treatment (% of country's total population)				
Discharges of oil into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Releases of phosphate into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Releases of nitrate into coastal waters (metric tons)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: Global climate change, pollution and water shortages due to decreasing rainfall are among the major factors having a negative impact on the availability and quality of fresh water resources. In this context, the government of Guinea-Bissau's main objective is to promote water conservation, maintain the quality of existing fresh water resources, and ensure universal coverage. The government, through the General Directorate of Natural Resources, has established cooperation links with several international organizations and developed countries to study the possibility of providing water coverage to the entire population by drilling cartesian wells, particularly in the north and eastern parts of the country whose populations are most affected by the water shortages during the dry season. Guinea-Bissau's climate is characterized by a rain season and a dry season. A Water and Sanitation Master Plan and a Plan for Rural Hydraulics, to be carried out in collaboration with UNDP and United Nations Capital Development Fund, is anticipated. The Ministry of Energy, Industry and Natural Resources, through the General Directorate of Natural Resources, elaborated a Water and Sanitation Scheme aimed at improving the management of water resources, taking into account the harmful effect of drought, pollution, and salinity. This scheme is based on a strategy which identifies all water resources available in the country, including underground and surface water, its distribution and other aspects. This strategy also identifies the water needs of the rural and urban populations, and of agriculture and cattle raising as well. An Inter-ministerial Committee on Water and Sanitation (CIMA) and a Technical Water Committee (CTA), an operational service of CIMA, will be created in the context of the Water and Sanitation Scheme. There is also a National Water Council formed by technicians from various governmental institutions working with water issues, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Energy, Industry, and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Public Health.	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** See Status Report

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** See Status Report

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Fresh water availability (total domestic/external in million m^3)				
Annual withdrawal of freshwater as % of available water				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: No information	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 20: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTES, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN HAZARDOUS WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: **The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal** **• The Basel Convention has not been ratified.** **Additional comments relevant to this chapter**	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Generation of hazardous waste (t)				
Import of hazardous wastes (t)				
Export of hazardous wastes (t)				
Area of land contaminated by hazardous waste (km^2)				
Expenditure on hazardous waste treatment (US$)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 21: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTES AND SEWAGE-RELATED ISSUES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: No Information	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Generation of industrial and municipal waste (t)				
Waste disposed(Kg/capita)				
Expenditure on waste collection and treatment (US$)				
Waste recycling rates (%)				
Municipal waste disposal (Kg/capita)				
Waste reduction rates per unit of GDP (t/year)				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 22: SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: No information	

Cross-Sectoral Issues

1. **Decision-Making Structure:** No information

2. **Capacity-Building/Technology Issues:** No information

3. **Major Groups:** No information

4. **Finance:** No information

5. **Regional/International Cooperation:** No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

AGENDA 21 CHAPTERS 23-32: MAJOR GROUPS

The role of major groups are also covered under the various chapters of Agenda 21. The following is a summary of main objectives outlined in Agenda 21. Please check the appropriate boxes and describe briefly any important steps or obstacles.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS	
Ch. 24: GLOBAL ACTION FOR WOMEN TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was ratified in 1985. **24.b** Increasing the proportion of women decision makers. No information **24.2.e** assessing, reviewing, revising and implementing curricula and other educational material with a view to promoting dissemination of gender-relevant knowledge. Curricula and educational material: No information **24.2.f and 24.2.c** formulating and implementing policies, guidelines, strategies and plans for achievement of equality in all aspects of society including issuing a strategy by year 2000 to eliminate obstacles to full participation of women in sustainable development. Policies/strategies etc. are being drawn up. **24.2.d** establishing mechanisms by 1995 to assess implementation and impact of development and environment policies and programmes on women: No information **Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):** Women in Guinea-Bissau have played an active role in the decision making process, both economic and political, since the country's independence. Women's organizations have always fought to defend women's own interests and to attempt to define their place in society. In recent years, the government of Guinea-Bissau has implemented policies, plans, and strategies aimed at achieving gender equality. These plans included promoting women's education, training, nutrition, and health, as well as their participation in decision making regarding environmental management. It has been a concern of recent governments to strengthen the intervention capacity of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Advancement of Women so it can be more effective in promoting the role of women in Guinea-Bissau's society. This Ministry is responsible for elaborating the governments' policy on women and for providing support to women's organizations. It should be noted that women's NGOs, in collaboration with the above Ministry, organized in Bissau the first fair on a variety of products made exclusively by women. Women in Guinea-Bissau play an important role in the development process. Aside from being active in all productive sectors, they also participate in nature conservation activities. The country's social and productive structure depends heavily on women's participation. There are many women's associations, including the Castanhez Initiative which has been active in forest conservation.	

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 25: CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

25.4 establishing processes that promote dialogue between the youth and government at all levels and mechanisms that permit youth access to information and opportunity to present their views on implementing A21.
Name relevant youth fora (3-4 most important): No information

Describe their role in the national process: No information

25.6 reducing youth unemployment: See below

25.5 ensuring that by year 2000 more than 50% of youth – gender balanced – have access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training.
The goal set in Agenda 21: See below

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
As in many developing countries, the percentage of youth in Guinea-Bissau is relatively high, accounting for nearly 30% of the country's total population. The government and NGOs are working together to increase educational opportunities for children and youth, including education on environmental issues. The environmental component is being taken into consideration in this process.

Schools and health centres have been used for community mobilization to promote the important role that both parents and children can play in awareness raising and the sensibilization of local communities regarding environmental issues. These activities represent an opportunity for children and youth from different schools and villages to get together and form their own youth groups. Most of these initiatives are sponsored by NGOs, which depend on the assistance and support of the government and the international community. Both UNICEF and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature have been particularly active in promoting activities for children.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 26: RECOGNIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

26.3.a establishing a process to empower indigenous people and their communities -- through policies and legal instruments: See below

26.3.b strengthening arrangements for active participation in national policies: See below

26.3.c involving indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes at the national and local level. See below

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
Local indigenous populations play an important role in the development process. Development partners, such as the government, national and international NGOs, among others, often seek their advice and participation in development projects. Their knowledge of local realities and respect for nature are recognized as an valuable contribution to all development activities, including sensibilization campaigns to raise awareness for the need to use natural resources more efficiently.

In this context, the ex-Secretary of State for Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts, immediately after it was created, met with local authorities, religious and tribal chiefs from every region, among others, to inform them about the government's policy for natural resource management and the contributions they could make to the development process.

Ch. 27: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
27.5 developing mechanisms that allow NGOs to play their partnership role responsibly and effectively. See below
27.6 reviewing formal procedures and mechanisms to involve NGOs in decision making and implementation. See below
27.8 promoting and allowing NGOs to participate in the conception, establishment and evaluation of official mechanisms to review Agenda 21 implementation.
See below

27.7 establishing a mutually productive dialogue by 1995 at the national level between NGOs and governments.
See below

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
The government of Guinea-Bissau recognizes formal and non-formal organizations as well as popular movements as development partners in the implementation of Agenda 21 goals and objectives. NGOs play an important role as members of the civil society for they strengthen the democratic and participatory approach.

A government NGO coordinating agency, SOLIDAMI, was established to promote the role of NGOs as social partners, to facilitate dialogue, partnership and cooperation among them, and to facilitate as well their participation in national mechanisms and policies designed to implement sustainable development projects. The aim is to make use of NGOs intervention capacity in specific areas, to complement government activities, particularly in education, poverty eradication, environmental conservation, among others.

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 28: LOCAL AUTHORITIES' INITIATIVES IN SUPPORT OF AGENDA 21.

28.2.d encouraging local authorities to implement and monitor programmes that aim to ensure participation of women and youth in local decision making.

No information

Government support of local agenda 21 initiatives: See below

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
A country with an area of 36,125 Km^2, Guinea-Bissau has a population of about 1 million divided into 20 ethnic groups. There are three major provinces divided into eight administrative regions and each region is subdivided into various administrative sectors.

This structure has been fairly preserved since independence. Local administrative power was initially in the hands of village committees formed by elected village representatives. However, in recent years it has been passed on to local religious and traditional leaders, on whom most development projects for specific ethnic regions depend for their execution. These local leaders play a vital role in the civic education of their people; they mobilize local communities and raise awareness for the need to promote sustainable development.

The introduction of a new administrative system will allow the newly established autarchies to enter into dialogue with the local population, organizations, and the private sector to develop local sustainable development plans. Local authorities, in collaboration with other civil society representatives, will define strategies to implement these plans.

Ch. 29: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WORKERS AND THEIR TRADE UNIONS.

29.2 full participation of workers in implementation and evaluation of A21.
29.3 a to e (By year 2000, (a) promoting ratification of ILO conventions; (b) establishing bipartite and tripartite mechanism on safety, health and sustainable development; (c) increasing number of environmental collective agreements; (d) reducing occupational accidents and injuries; (e) increasing workers' education and training efforts.

No information

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

30: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

30.6 increasing the efficiency of resource use, including reuse, recycling, and reduction of waste per unit of economic output.

No information

30.18.a encouraging the concept of stewardship in management and use of natural resources by entrepreneurs.

No information

List any actions taken in this area: No information

30.18.b increasing number of enterprises that subscribe to and implement sustainable development policies.
No information

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

STATUS REPORT ON PARTICIPATION BY MAJOR GROUPS AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

Ch. 31: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL COMMUNITY.

31.3.b improving exchange of knowledge and concerns between s&t community and the general public. Scientific community has already established ways in which to address the general public and deal with sustainable development.

No information

31.9 developing, improving and promoting international acceptance of codes of practice and guidelines related to science and technology and its role in reconciling environment and development.

No information

Brief comments on this chapter not already described in chapter 35 (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):

Ch. 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF FARMERS.

32.5.c promoting and encouraging sustainable farming practices and technologies.

32.5.e developing a policy framework that provides incentives and motivation among farmers for sustainable and efficient farming practices.

32.5.f enhancing participation of organizations of farmers in design and implementation of sustainable development policies.

Brief comments on this chapter (maximum 100 words) (please, do not exceed this page):
Taking into account the fact that agriculture is the primary activity on which most of the population depend, that most rural activities are carried out in close contact with nature and that it becomes increasingly vulnerable due to over exploitation, the government promotes activities aimed at achieving sustainable agricultural development. Agriculture is often subject to decreasing levels of rainfall, lower soil productivity, and monoculture. The government has therefore promoted the following activities:

- In light of the structural adjustment programme, carried out in collaboration with the IMF and the World Bank, the government encourages sustainable farming practices and the export of monoculture products;

- It provides incentives for women to promote horticulture, by providing technical assistance and improved seeds; Most of these activities were carried out, in cooperation with the Swedish and Dutch governments, in pilot projects, such as the PDRI - Integrated Rural Development Project Zone I, and others, based on the needs of women farmers.

- Establishment of a legal and institutional framework, including the Law on Land and a Comprehensive Agrarian Policy, to serve as the basis for promoting sustainable agricultural development. These legal instruments will allow for a more decentralized decision making process, encourage sustainable lifestyles, rural development, and efficient management of fragile ecosystems and water resources.

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Financial resources and mechanisms are also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national financial policies, domestic and external (including ODA)

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT: No information	
CHANGES IN NATIONAL BUDGET TO ADDRESS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:	
NEW ECONOMIC INSTRUMENTS:	
ELIMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY UNFRIENDLY SUBSIDIES:	

ODA policy issues

No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS						
	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	
ODA funding provided or received (Total US$million)						
	Average for 92-93		Average for 94-96			
Net flow of external capital from all sources as % of GDP						
Other data						

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 34: TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation and capacity-building is also covered under each sectoral chapter of Agenda 21 where relevant. This summary highlights broader national policies and actions relating to chapter 34.

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON LINKS BETWEEN NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORKS/SYSTEMS:

In Guinea-Bissau, as in many developing countries, there is a need for a more favourable access to environmentally sound technologies and technical cooperation which allows for the transfer of skills and know how to operate those technologies.

The government is aware of the fact that the availability of scientific and technological information and access to environmentally sound technologies is a prerequisite for achieving sustainable development. Given the country's socio-economic conditions, it has not been possible to develop these. The lack of infrastructure and an adequate information system on environmental issues and available technologies, makes it necessary to take into consideration the two interrelated components, namely to improve access to both information on end technologies and their ecological risks, and to environmentally sound technologies.

It is also important to highlight the role of NGOs in this context. There is a joint project between the Ministry of Rural Development and an American NGO to introduce new technologies, such as solar energy, to be used in irrigation and increase agricultural productivity without negative impacts on the environment.

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

No information

• Describe any work being undertaken at the national or local level regarding efforts to promote clean production processes and/or the concepts of eco-efficiency. These processes may include training, preferential financial arrangements, information dissemination and changes in legal or regulatory frameworks.

No information

• Provide information on the adoption of environmental management systems. National reaction to environmental management system standards such as the ISO 14000 Series and others. Please note efforts made at the national level to promote their adoption and the creation of certification infrastructure in order to facilitate access to these standards to local industry.

No information

• List and describe programs or work under way to facilitate the transfer of ESTs to small and medium sized enterprises. Please note efforts to facilitate access to financial resources and other transfer strategies.

No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES:

This issue is being addressed by the National Research Institute (INEP).

STEPS TAKEN TO ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC UNDERSTANDING, IMPROVE LONG TERM SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT, BUILDING OF CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY:

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS			
		Year	
Number of scientists, engineers and technicians engaged in research and experimental development	#	19--	
Total expenditure for research and experimental development (US$eq.)	$	19--	
Other data			

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

NATIONAL PRIORITY:

STATUS REPORT: The Ministry of Environment, together with national and international NGOs have been active in promoting environmental conservation through training, sensibilization, awareness raising, and education campaigns.

In terms of informal education and in the context of public sensibilization campaigns, several local private radio stations have emerged hosting programmes in various local languages, sponsored by NGOs, aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues. In addition, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment (MTAA) has also carried out environmental campaigns in the National Radio station.

Regarding formal education, the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts (MTAA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, have been introducing the theme of environment in pre-school programmes and secondary education.

Drawing contests on themes related to the environment are held primarily in the capital for primary and secondary schools students from different parts of the country. These contests are usually sponsored by NGOs.

a) Reorientation of education towards sustainable development
See above
b) Increasing public awareness
See above
c) Promoting training
See above

ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS:
See above

FINANCING AND COST EVALUATION OF THE LABOUR ACTIVITIES:
No information

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS				
	1980	1990	Latest 199-	
Adult literacy rate (%) Male				
Adult literacy rate (%) Female				
% of primary school children reaching grade 5 (1986-97)				
Mean number of years of schooling				
% of GNP spent on education				
Females per 100 males in secondary school				
Women per 100 men in the labour force				
Other data				

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

National capacity building is also covered under sectoral chapters.
Donors: You may wish to describe here how Agenda 21 has influenced your ODA policies in this area.
Developing countries: You may wish to describe any new national mechanisms for capacity building - and any changes in technical cooperation.

NATIONAL PRIORITY:	
STATUS REPORT ON NATIONAL ENDOGENOUS CAPACITY BUILDING: Cooperation with developed countries, particularly with Portugal, focus essentially on capacity building, training and financing for projects aimed at implementing Agenda 21 and other Rio commitments. Cooperation with international governmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), USAID, the World Bank, the IMF, UNESCO, UNDP, and the African Development Bank, among others, is extremely important for it promotes the participatory development approach. All cooperation agreements are of the responsibility of the Ministry of International Cooperation and Planning.	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ch. 38: Brief summary of any particular UN System response affecting this country/state:
No information

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

Ch. 39: International Legal Instruments are covered under the relevant sectoral chapters. This is a listing of major agreements/conventions (not already covered) entered into and relevant to Agenda 21: **No information**	

AGENDA 21 CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

This chapter is also covered under sectoral and other chapters of this profile. The matrix below gives an overview of how national authorities rate the available information for decision making.

Rating of available data and information suitable for decision-making

	Agenda 21 Chapters	Very good	Good	Some good data but many gaps	Poor	Remarks
2.	International cooperation and trade					
3.	Combating poverty					
4.	Changing consumption patterns					
5.	Demographic dynamics and sustainability					
6.	Human health					
7.	Human settlements					
8.	Integrating E & D in decision-making					
9.	Protection of the atmosphere					
10.	Integrated planning and management of land resources					
11.	Combating deforestation					
12.	Combating desertification and drought					
13.	Sustainable mountain development					
14.	Sustainable agriculture and rural development					
15.	Conservation of biological diversity					
16.	Biotechnology					
17.	Oceans, seas, coastal areas and their living resources					
18.	Freshwater resources					
19.	Toxic chemicals					
20.	Hazardous wastes					
21.	Solid wastes					
22.	Radioactive wastes					
24.	Women in sustainable development					
25.	Children and youth					
26.	Indigenous people					
27.	Non-governmental organizations					
28.	Local authorities					
29.	Workers and trade unions					
30.	Business and industry					
31.	Scientific and technological community					
32.	Farmers					
33.	Financial resources and mechanisms					
34.	Technology, cooperation and capacity-building					
35.	Science for sustainable development					
36.	Education, public awareness and training					
37.	International cooperation for capacity-building					
38.	International institutional arrangements					
39.	International legal instruments					
40.	Information for decision-making					

Additional Comments

The government of Guinea-Bissau, through the Ministry of Tourism, Environment and Traditional Arts, intends to implement measures to ensure that decision making processes take into account the need to improve the quality of and access to information, particularly information regarding natural resource management. In this context, an agreement was signed with Portugal with the view to establishing a database to be used in the project for the elaboration the National Plan for the Environment.

In an effort to facilitate decision making processes and to monitor natural resources management more efficiently, the government has requested to join UNEP's International Environmental Information System (INFOTERRA), the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS), and the Global Resource Information Database (GRID).

STATISTICAL DATA/INDICATORS

	1980	1993	Latest 199-	
Number of telephones in use per 100 inhabitants				
Other data				